

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Recruitment Interfering with
Farm Production

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1. On 11 June 1949 it was reported in Ljubljana that two transports of volunteer workers, aged primarily 19 to 25, recently had moved to the Bulgarian Frontier. According to one version, the workers had been mobilized to strengthen defenses along the Bulgarian border. Another opinion held that the recruits were headed for Pirot where they would be instructed in partisan tactics to be employed against Bulgaria. Apropos of this, rumors are also circulating that approximately one hundred volunteers were selected from the Ljubljana and Skofja Loka garrisons to be sent to the Partisan School in Pirot.
2. In the Notranjsko and Vipava areas, many young men and women were mobilized recently for work in the lumber camps. In some instances the farmers and officials came to blows, for recruitment occurred during the most active pre-harvest season. In Lozice (Vipava area), the authorities had to resort to use of firearms to quiet enraged villagers. Similar incidents are reported in Smarje (Vipava area), Ubeljsko (near Postojna) and in Crni Vrh near Idria. Great anxiety was aroused by the news that young people mobilized for forced labor would not return to their homes, but would be transported to the Vojvodina area to prepare defenses against anticipated Cominform sabotage of harvests.
3. Systematic sabotage continues, particularly in the Banat, Backa, Barania and Srem areas. There also has been recurring sabotage of fruits and vegetables on their way to the Ljubljana market. Complaints at the unusual increase in damage to locomotives and cars have been registered at all main railroad centers. Generally, failures and accidents in administration and production are categorically attributed to the Cominform. In many instances workers are in a state of panic.
4. To avoid reproach for being out of line with the "Peoples Democracies", the regime has launched a general campaign against remaining middle class entrepreneurs. Those not yet fully dispossessed are attacked in newspapers and at mass meetings. Complaining farmers are brought into ridiculous court trials which result in heavy fines, imprisonment and confiscation of property. The farmer is being taxed out of economic existence. The remaining elements of craftsmanship, likewise, are being eliminated.

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5. Gathering of harvests and crops will be seriously neglected as a result of the intolerable pressure on farmers by the regime. In the Vipava Valley there are villages in which it is impossible to obtain farm help. All labor has been absorbed into the factories and government projects. Not even during the greatest fighting of the war was there such a critical shortage of labor. In the Vipava Valley farmers are foregoing the cultivation of vineyards and are sowing clover instead, because with the latter crop they have less work. If this practice continues, in a few years there will be neither wine nor fruit in this area, which formerly were their main source of income.

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